

OKINAWA MARINE

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III MEF welcomes Wissler, bids Glueck farewell



Lt. Gen. John E. Wissler, left, receives the III Marine Expeditionary Force organizational colors from Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. while III MEF Sgt. Maj. Steven D. Morefield salutes during the III MEF change of command ceremony July 19 on Camp Foster. Wissler was the deputy commandant of Programs and Resources, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps in D.C. Glueck will be the deputy commandant of Combat Development and Integration; commanding general, Marine Corps Combat Development Command; commander, Marine Corps Forces Strategic Command; commanding general, Marine Corps National Capital Region Command; and commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces National Capital Region, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. Photo by Sgt. Brian A. Marion

Cpl. Matthew Manning

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Lt. Gen. John E. Wissler assumed command of the III Marine Expeditionary Force from Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. during a change of command ceremony at Camp Foster July 19.

During the ceremony, Wissler's words defined his intent for leading III MEF.

"To the Marines of III MEF, to the sailors who serve alongside us, you are so critical for our success," said Wissler. "Thank you for your sacrifice, thank you for your commitment, thank you for your dedication; and I promise you this, we will be ready to fight tonight, we will be partner-enabled, and we will be able to respond to any crisis."

The incoming commanding general is expected to oversee the continued realignment of forces in
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Commandant visits Okinawa Marines

Cpl. Alyssa N. Gunton

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos, Amos' spouse Bonnie Amos and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett visited Camps Hansen and Schwab July 18 to speak with the Marines of III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

The three distinguished visitors discussed several topics, including the status of Operation Enduring Freedom, sexual assault prevention and response, family readiness and the strategic importance of the Asia-Pacific region.

With Marine operations in Afghanistan scheduled to conclude in December 2014, the time and effort exerted is expected to result in success, according to Amos.

"The Afghan armed forces are doing a terrific job," said Amos. "We're about one terrain feature
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A Humvee takes to the beach from a utility landing craft July 20 during exercise Talisman Saber 2013. Talisman Saber is a biennial exercise that enhances multilateral collaboration between U.S. and Australia forces for future combined operations and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief response. The landing craft is operating in support of the USS Germantown, which is on patrol with the Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group with the embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Christopher Lindahl

Talisman Saber 2013 commences

Airman 1st Class Marianique Santos

COMBINED JOINT INFORMATION BUREAU, EXERCISE TALISMAN SABER

ROCKHAMPTON, QUEENSLAND, Australia — Exercise Talisman Saber 2013 began July 14 with a ceremony and static displays at the Rockhampton Show Grounds. Talisman Saber 2013 is designed to use a realistic scenario to train U.S. Pacific Command units

and Australia forces in planning and executing combined and joint military operations on land, air and sea.

Already in its fifth iteration, Talisman Saber is a biennial training activity aimed at improving Australian Defence Forces and U.S. combat readiness and interoperability.

"This exercise is the largest exercise that
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**COMMUNITY, SERVICE
MEMBERS CLEAN SHORELINE
DURING "VITAMIN SEA"**

PG. 10

Making correct career moves

Alignment plans detail re-enlistments, lateral moves

Gunnery Sgt. Jacqueline Caputi

Many of today's young men and women are joining the armed forces with a renewed sense of purpose and revised outlook toward the value of their career stability and job security. Today's first-term Marines have experienced growing up in homes that have faced the challenges of our recovering economy. As a result, today's young Marines place a higher value on their occupational proficiency and continuous competitive development. The effort that a first-term Marine invests in his or her initial career progression will have a direct impact on their military careers. The fiscal year 2014 retention guidelines represent something different to every Marine in their respective occupational fields. Retention guidelines provide detailed prerequisites for submission of re-enlistment requests. It is the commandant's voice of instruction for fiscal year 2014, first-term alignment plan and subsequent term alignment plans. An FTAP FY 14 Marine is a person with an end of current contract between Oct. 1 and Sept. 30, 2014. An

STAP FY 14 Marine will have been in less than 18 years, hold the rank from corporal to master sergeant with an ECC of Oct. 1 to Sept. 30, 2014. If someone is a tier level I Marine, beginning July 2013 they will receive responses with a rapid turnaround time. For Marines that are tier level II, III and IV, they will receive their response by October 2013. What this means to the FTAP FY 14 Marine is that effective July 1 the Marine Corps began execution of the enlisted requirements of the most qualified Marines. Marines that are ready to re-enlist today are a direct result of individual command efforts to provide the continuous one-on-one, personalized interaction through a timely interview process. In preparation for fiscal year re-enlistments, Marines are required to conduct scheduled interviews. Using a timely interview process allows Marines to prepare themselves and their families for a successful future. Today's FTAP Marines represent the highest quality of young men and women who were recruited three to four years ago. They know that they are smarter, stronger and better trained than

any other fighting force in the world. The tier-level system is a tool that is being used to expedite the identification of the most qualified Marines and incorporating them back into our ranks, so that we maintain our highest level of readiness. Every Marine in their individual military occupational specialty directly impacts our readiness and has committed to collectively improve our fighting force. The retention guidelines have been set in place to afford every qualified Marine in every MOS the opportunity to re-enlist, lateral move, request special duty assignment, or be reclassified. This year's guidelines cover a very broad scope of re-enlistment opportunities. Unfortunately, not all FTAP Marines will qualify to re-enlist. However, if Marines with exceptional performance have a closed MOS and did not receive the chance to re-enlist, they should contact their unit career planners who will have information concerning the quality re-enlistment program and the quality Marine identification program. It is important to stay informed. Ensure that you are reading the updates as they are published and more importantly contact your career planner with any questions. We are here for you. *Caputi is the career planner staff non-commissioned officer in charge with Marine Air Control Group 18, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.*

"Every Marine in their occupational specialty directly impacts our readiness and has committed to collectively improve our fighting force."



AROUND THE CORPS



Members of the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps, also known as "The Commandant's Own," are reflected off of an instrument July 12 during practice prior to a performance at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va. The Drum and Bugle Corps performed with the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon as part of a summer concert series hosted by the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. The U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Silent Drill Platoon are assigned to Marine Barracks Washington, D.C. Photo by Pfc. Samuel Ellis

Marines and sailors board a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (Reinforced) July 17 for a raid rehearsal as part of Exercise Talisman Saber 2013. Talisman Saber 2013 is a biennial training activity aimed at improving Australian Defence Forces and U.S. combat readiness and interoperability as a combined joint task force. The Marines and sailors are with Company E, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Bn., 4th Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Photo by Cpl. Codey Underwood





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Winner, 2012 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper



Junya Miyagi, left, exhibits fire-retardant protective overgarments and equipment for members of the Japan coast guard July 16 at the Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler Fire Department on Camp Foster. Miyagi is the battalion chief of training, Marine Corps Installations Pacific and MCB Camp Butler Fire and Emergency Services. The members of the JCG are with Helicopter and Water Rescue Squad, 11th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters, JCG.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

Japan coast guard visits Foster

Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Members of the 11th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters visited Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler Fire and Emergency Services July 12 and 16 at Camp Foster to view rescue equipment and discuss water-rescue techniques.

Along with the techniques of the Marine Corps, the Japan coast guard has also learned how the U.S. Air Force and Navy conduct their rescue missions, according to Kimihiko Edazawa, a member of the Helicopter and Water Rescue Squad, 11th Regional Coast Guard Headquarters, JCG.

"We came to learn about the Marine Corps-side of water rescue and firefighting," said Edazawa. "It was a great exchange of information, and I learned a lot."

During the training, the members of the JCG learned about U.S. military fire engines, ladders, and fire codes and standards, according to Junya Miyagi, the battalion chief of training with MCIPAC and MCB Camp Butler Fire and Emergency Services.

"We introduced them to the National Fire Protection Association standards for the U.S.," said Miyagi. "They were able to see the differences between the Japanese standards and the U.S. standards for fire-rescue equipment."

The JCG members were interested in the equipment differences because they are always looking for ways to improve their techniques and modify their training, according to Yuichi Kawakami, a member of the squad.

The training proved to be beneficial for both the JCG attendees and members of the MCIPAC and MCB Camp Butler Fire and Emergency Services as well.

"They taught us more about their techniques of surface and water rescue," said Miyagi. "If we encounter a rescue situation (in their jurisdiction), we can help them (using techniques they are familiar with)."

All of the attendees hoped to continue training with one another in the future, according to Hideaki Ueda, a member of the squad.

"Last year, we learned rope-rescue training from Miyagi," said Ueda. "We would like to train with the Marines and the fire department more often, so we can hone our skills together."

The success of the two days of training encouraged the fire department and the JCG to schedule more events in the future, according to Shawn M. Curtis, the deputy safety director of MCIPAC and MCB Camp Butler.

"This meeting may eventually culminate in bilateral training exercises between the two agencies," said Curtis. "I am sure (the JCG) plan to organize how both agencies can coordinate their emergency response efforts for future crisis at sea."

LE Battalion enhances shotgun skills



Lance Cpl. Michael B. Luce fires the Mossberg 500 shotgun July 18 during a live-fire training event at Range 18 in the Central Training Area near Camp Hansen. Military policemen with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion improved their close-range and rapid target-engagement abilities with the shotgun. Luce is a military policeman with Company B, 3rd LE Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr

BRIEFS

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE BATTALION CORPORALS COURSE

Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, will conduct a Corporals Course July 31 - Aug. 23.

Nominations for the course will be accepted through July 24.

Check-in for the course is July 31 at 7:30 a.m. Walk-ins will be accepted at 8 a.m.

For more information, call 645-5620 or 645-0477.

POSTAL SERVICE CHANGE

The U.S. Postal Service is consolidating military mail processing operations from two coastal locations to one.

As part of this effort, new procedures affecting mobile Fleet Post Office and Postal Service Code addresses have been implemented. Each Navy mobile unit has a unique, nine-digit (ZIP+4) FPO ZIP code and PSC.

Effective immediately, the sender must include the full, correct, nine-digit ZIP code on all classes of mail, or USPS will return mail to sender marked undeliverable as addressed.

Each unit's new FPO ZIP is their original ZIP code plus the last four digits of their unit number.

The new PSC is the original ZIP code plus your personal four-digit box number or zero plus your three-digit box number.

For more information, call 637-0120.

FUTENMA GATE 3 SCHEDULE CHANGE

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Gate 3, along Route 330, will be temporarily closed to all traffic for construction work from July 22 to Aug. 4.

The gate will open for normal hours on Aug. 5. Gate 1 will remain open during normal hours. Gate 2 will be open 6-8 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. throughout the week.

For more information, call 636-3166.

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS SECURITY GUARD VISIT

Personnel with the Headquarters Marine Corps Marine Security Guard screening team will visit Okinawa commands Aug. 12-14.

The team will screen and assign qualified Marines to MSG duty.

For more information on locations and schedules, contact your unit career planner.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Wednesday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Students, service members create lasting bonds during exchange

Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Gripping a rope tightly in their hands, the whistle blows and they pull with all their might. Straining with effort, they struggle to pull until one team begins to overpower the other. In seconds, the referee blows his whistle and declares a victor.

The tug-of-war event was one of several activities held during a cultural exchange between U.S. service members and Busy Bee International Japanese Elementary School students, just outside Camp Foster's "Legion Gate."

The event took place over two days, starting July 13 with a picnic at the school and picking up again with a field trip for the students July 15 to Camp Foster and Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

This past year, on the 40th anniversary of Okinawa's reversion to Japan, the students had their first friendship day picnic, according to Michael B. Martin, a volunteer at the school. It received such a positive turnout that the school staff decided to make it an annual event.

"It helps bring an understanding of (Americans) to the children," said Martin. "The children know the American military is here, but they don't know much about them."

The picnic opened with the students performing several traditional Okinawa dances to welcome the volunteers and guests. After the performances, the students and volunteers integrated into teams to play several games like American dodgeball and tug-of-war.

Events such as the friendship picnic are a good way to build relationships between the U.S. armed

forces and the people of Okinawa, according to Sgt. Daniel Olvera, a participant and bulk fuel specialist with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The event afforded service members the opportunity to interact with people in a relaxed setting.

"The children get to see our playful side and are more likely to talk to us and feel more comfortable doing activities or sports when we are out of uniform," said Olvera. "They relate to us easier when they can see that we have fun just like they do."

Hoping to teach their students more about the U.S. armed forces and the English language, the staff arranged for a tour of Camp Foster and MCAS Futenma.

"We want them to be more exposed to the English language and an environment where people interact while using it," said Sachiko Arakaki, the principal of the school. "They can learn a lot of things in the classroom but seeing these things with their own eyes and learning from the people who actually do the things that they are learning about is infinitely better."

The field trip began at the Marine Corps Installations Pacific and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing headquarters building on Camp Foster, where the students were given a tour viewing the newly built wind turbine.

The tour was an opportunity for the students to see the Marines in their working environment, according to Robert D. Eldridge, the guide and translator during the tour and deputy assistant chief of staff, G-7, government and external affairs, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, MCIPAC.

"It let them learn more about



Two teams compete in a game of tug-of-war July 13 at the Busy Bee International Japanese Elementary School during the 2nd Annual Friendship Day Picnic. "It helps bring an understanding of (Americans) to the children," said Michael B. Martin, a volunteer at the school. "The children know the American military is here, but they don't know much about them." Photo by Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

how we work," said Eldridge. "The more they learn about us, the more they'll understand about what we are doing here."

The trip continued on to MCAS Futenma where they were given a presentation by Lt. Col. Sean P. Patak, the executive officer of MCAS Futenma.

"I love interacting with the children and showing them what we do," said Patak. "I'd do stuff like this every day if I could."

The students and staff were also given a tour of an MV-22B Osprey before going to the fire station.

The Marines at the station displayed their firefighting skills by demonstrating the response time between receiving an emergency call and responding to it, according to Cpl. Larry W. Danley, an aircraft rescue and firefighting specialist

with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma. The Marines at the firefighting station have to respond quickly in order to save lives.

The students watched as the Marines donned their protective equipment and drove off in a matter of minutes, proving their readiness to complete their mission.

For the children, the demonstrations served as a fun way to interact with the military, while learning about the different roles of each service member.

"I think we were really lucky because some schools don't get to do this," said Autumn Cleymans, a third-grade student at the school. "I had a lot of fun, and I really liked meeting and playing with the Americans and I hope we can play again soon."

Pacific armed forces promote peace during Khaan Quest



Staff Sgt. Antonio A. Tyler, left, and 1st Lt. Matthew A. Elliott Jr. laugh with a child July 23 during a pause in renovation work on the Erdmiin Oyun High School as part of Exercise Khaan Quest 2013 in the Nalaikh District of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. Khaan Quest is a multinational exercise designed to promote regional peace and security. Tyler is the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Marines with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Elliot is the project manager and OIC of the Marines with 9th ESB. Photo by Sgt. John Ewald

USNH Okinawa welcomes new CO



Swap



Aiyelawo

Capt. Anne M. Swap assumed command of the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa from Capt. Pius A. Aiyelawo during a ceremony on Camp Foster July 18. Aiyelawo commanded USNH Okinawa since July 2011 and will become the deputy commander of Navy Medicine Research and Development Command, Bethesda, Md. Swap's previous assignment was as the executive officer of the U.S. Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, N.C.

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the Asia-Pacific region to ensure III MEF's capability to serve as the nation's force in readiness in the region.

Wissler's previous assignment was as the deputy commandant of Programs and Resources, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, in D.C.

Glueck assumed command of the III MEF in January 2011. Under his charge, III MEF responded to multiple natural disasters across the Asia-Pacific region with humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, including Operation Tomadachi, which followed the devastating 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and subsequent tsunami. Also during Glueck's tour, the first squadron of MV-22B Osprey aircraft arrived on Okinawa in 2012, and he oversaw the planning for a second squadron to arrive, scheduled later this summer.

"This tour has been the fastest two and a half years of my life but without a doubt the absolute most rewarding time in my career," Glueck said. "There is nothing better than being forward-stationed, forward-deployed, at the tip of the spear, a premier force in readiness; and having to actually show it and demonstrate it on a daily basis ... that is truly rewarding."

Glueck will serve next at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, as the deputy commandant of Combat Development and Integration; commanding general, Marine Corps Combat Development Command; commander, Marine Corps Forces Strategic Command; commanding general, Marine Corps National Capital Region Command; and commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces National Capital Region, HQ, USMC.

During his farewell remarks, Glueck expressed his sincere appreciation for the Marines and sailors of III MEF.

"To our Marines and sailors, you are a certain force in an uncertain world," Glueck added. "Thanks to your unfailing leadership and commitment, III MEF will remain our nation's force of choice in the Pacific. It has been my distinct honor to serve as your commanding general and be part of this tremendous team."

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos attended the ceremony along with Gen. Eiji Kimizuka, the chief of staff of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett. Other distinguished guests with the U.S. consulate general in Naha, Japan Self-Defense Force, the Republic of Korea Marine Corps, the U.S. Army, Navy and Air Force, and Japan and Okinawa government officials also attended.

Amos offered encouragement to Wissler.

"John (Wissler), you have my utmost confidence as you take command," said Amos. "As the deputy commandant for Programs and Resources your efforts overseeing, developing and justifying the Marine Corps' budget requirements were crucial during a marked period of financial distress for our nation. Your experience and leadership will be invaluable to the Marines and sailors of III MEF."

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the U.S. does with any single nation anywhere on earth," said R. Neils Marquardt, U.S. consul general to Sydney, at the opening ceremony. "We do it in Australia. This is an enormously important exercise, very much reflecting the friendship between our two countries."

From July to August, more than 28,000 U.S. service members and ADF personnel will participate in the exercise. The focus of the training will be on a combined task force in a mid-intensity conflict scenario, including simulated humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

In her opening remarks, Rockhampton Mayor Margaret Strelow provided a short history of U.S. and Australia military relations,

concluding with a warm welcome to the American troops.

"Please enjoy the hospitality of our city," Strelow said. "Make yourselves at home as old friends should, and from the generation that gets to enjoy the peace that was won in those tumultuous and dark days (of World War II), we thank you for a friendship that has proven its mettle."

In addition to being the official starting point of the exercise, the day also served as an opportunity for ADF and U.S. service members to reach out to the community with a static display of aircraft and equipment.

One of the highlights of the day was the performance of the ADF Army Band and the U.S. 7th Fleet Navy Band. During one of its musical sets, the U.S. 7th

Fleet Navy Band collaborated with Rockhampton-area high school students.

The local community was also able to interact with U.S. and Australia service members who answered questions regarding military life and the use of military assets displayed at the show grounds. Residents of the area had the opportunity to see and interact with the armored vehicle and rotary aircraft crews that will be used during the exercise.

Throughout Talisman Saber 2013, the U.S. and ADF intend to enhance multilateral collaboration in support of future combined operations, humanitarian emergencies and natural disaster response to demonstrate both countries' dedication to maintaining regional security, peace and stability.

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back from them and are there if they need us. We've got their back.

"By November of this year, we'll only have about 4,500 Marines left in Afghanistan. By the time (those Marines withdraw), we will be done. Our mission in Afghanistan will be complete; and I mean it's not a matter of 'pulling the plug,' we'll actually be done."

The equipment coming out of Afghanistan will be reset and redistributed with a focus of supporting missions in the Pacific, according to Amos.

"We're slowly putting the forces back on (Okinawa), and I'm committed to that," said Amos. "We have committed the Marine Corps to do just exactly what the president has asked us to do."

"We went from one infantry battalion on Okinawa to three, and by October of this year, we'll have a fourth one."

There are many reasons why the president wants to focus efforts on the Pacific, according to Amos.

"The Pacific is more than 63 million square miles of surface; it's 33 times bigger than the contiguous parts of the U.S., and 61 percent of the world's population lives here," said Amos. "We've got five of the seven U.S. major treaties that we've signed with other nations in the Asia-Pacific area ... so this is an important area for us strategically as the U.S."

Barrett spoke about the impact service members' actions have while stationed overseas, specifically Okinawa.

"All of their actions have strategic implications," said Barrett. "(The Marines here) need to be stand-up men and women. When it comes time to do something, they must immediately take this into consideration; 'is what I'm about to do moral, ethical, professional, safe and just?'"

Barrett also passionately shared his thoughts on sexual assault prevention and response.

"Sexual assault is the most disgusting, demeaning, shameful, criminal act (to violate another person)," said Barrett. "The message has been clearly received over the last week as the commandant and I have been traveling here and through our leadership; the Marines are fed up with sexual assault, they are sick and tired of it. (If predators single out and prey on one of our wonderful people,) stand by because Marines are rising up. They are going to get you, and they're going to put a boot in your neck."

Amos addressed the issue of sexual assault within the ranks with equal vigor.

"Here's the bottom line: we are the United States Marine Corps," said Amos. "We are a team, and team members take care of one another, and we don't allow bad things to happen to one another. We protect one



Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos addresses an audience of Marines July 18 at Camp Hansen. Amos, along with his spouse Bonnie Amos and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett, spoke to Marines about the status of Operation Enduring Freedom, sexual assault prevention and response, family readiness and the strategic importance of the Asia-Pacific region.

Photo by Cpl. Alyssa N. Gunton

another; we fight alongside one another; we give our lives for one another."

Bonnie Amos also had a message for the service members and their families stationed on Okinawa.

"Every opportunity is out there (for families when Marines are in training or awaiting to deploy)," she said. "If someone is tight on money, the resources are out there (to help). Everything that a Marine or family member could possibly want is within reach. They can just raise a hand if they are in need."

As the senior leaders gave light to the current and future operations of the Marine Corps, they also wanted to take the time to thank the Marines for everything that they do, according to Amos.

"Go back to Sept. 11, (2001) when the nation called for an elite set of Americans; there has been no shortage of that," said Barrett. "When (the commandant and I) travel around, we get to see the discipline, proficiency, esprit de corps, morale and motivation; and coming to the Pacific, we are seeing exactly all that. The message that we delivered while we were on this trip is to remind (the Marines) just how humbling and what a privilege it is that we get to serve them."



"Frag out!" shouts Lance Cpl. Joseph L. Proof as he hurls an M67 fragmentation grenade July 19 at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan. Marines first practiced safe and proper grenade throwing techniques before throwing a live grenade to build their confidence with the weapon system. Proof is a landing support specialist with Landing Support Company, CLR-37, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

Marines conclude Fuji training, summit Mo

Story and Photos by Cpl. Adam B. Miller

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Since ancient times, warriors of different eras have readied themselves for combat. The Marines in the Asia-Pacific region are no different. With approximately 34,000 acres of training ground at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan, they continually prepare to fight tonight.

Approximately 100 Marines and sailors of Combat Logistics Regiments 35 and 37 concluded the biannual Fuji Warrior training exercise July 22 at CATC Camp Fuji.

The service members spent two weeks learning how to operate as provisional rifle platoons by focusing on individual skills and small-unit training designed to maintain an organic security capability.

"Marines who are not infantrymen

don't get a lot of opportunities to train with the Marine Corps' various weapons systems or practice combat-related operations, so the Fuji Warrior training exercise is tailored to do just that," said Capt. Evan Brashier, an infantry officer with tactics, readiness and training, G-3, operations and training, Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "Every Marine is a rifleman, so it is important that they all possess a basic understanding of the infantry craft and gain the confidence to know what to do in combat."

The training exercise consisted of force protection, ground attack and combat patrol operations, along with various rifle and machine-gun training, land navigation and grenade familiarization training.

"The best part of the training exercise for me was being able to learn



Marines fire M240 medium machine guns down range July 18 at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan, during the biannual Fuji Warrior training exercise. The machine guns were strategically placed to train Marines how to employ the weapons systems effectively as fire support for other Marines conducting squad attacks. The Marines are with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Fuji Warrior Mount Fuji

about and employ the weapons systems like the MK19 40 mm automatic grenade launcher and the .50-caliber Browning machine gun because I've always wanted to shoot these weapons but never had the chance," said Sgt. Martin Villagran, a landing support specialist with Landing Support Company, CLR-37, 3rd MLG, III MEF. "I'm leaving CATC Camp Fuji with more confidence and knowledge to properly lead Marines in combat, and that is invaluable."

The noncommissioned officers of CLR-35 and 37 agreed that the Fuji Warrior training exercise is something that all non-infantry Marines should experience at least once in their career.

"This exercise gave me the opportunity to become more of a team leader, so I had to step up my game and learn as much as I could to effectively lead the Marines subordinate to me in a



Lance Cpl. Brandon T. Pickens, right, fires a MK19 40 mm automatic grenade launcher July 11 at Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Japan, during the biannual Fuji Warrior training exercise. The purpose of the exercise is to familiarize Marines with weapons systems and combat tactics in order to build their confidence. Pickens is a landing support specialist with Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

combat scenario," said Cpl. Isamar M. Loya, an airborne and air delivery specialist with Landing Support Company, CLR-37, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

The leadership skills and confidence the Marines acquired at CATC Camp Fuji as a result of the training exercise is vital for combat, but it is also something that can be employed in the Marines' everyday duties, according to Loya.

The culminating event was a night hike to the summit of Japan's iconic Mount Fuji, where the Marines and sailors experienced a

once-in-a-lifetime moment of watching the sunrise from their position 12,388 feet above sea level.

"The obvious benefit to the Marine Corps is that training like this better prepares combat service support Marines for a combat deployment," said Brashier. "We want to enhance the ability of these units to be able to provide their own security and, if necessary, security operations for other units. After completing this training, the Marines and sailors all walked away with a renewed confidence and invaluable capabilities."



Marines, along with other hikers, begin the descent down Mount Fuji, Japan, July 20. The purpose of the hike was to build camaraderie and unit cohesion as a final event of the Fuji Warrior training exercise, a two-week intensive combat and weapons familiarization training evolution. Each year, approximately 300,000 people hike Mount Fuji between the months of July and August, the only time the volcano is not completely covered with snow and is most suitable for hiking conditions. Mount Fuji stands an impressive 12,388 feet above sea level at its highest point. The Marines are with CLR-35 and 37, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

CAB Marines strengthen III MEF capabilities

Story and photos by Lance Cpl. Brandon C. Suhr

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The Marine Corps' unique Combat Assault Battalion is designed to conduct and support amphibious operations by transporting surface assault elements and equipment from water-based staging areas to inland objectives.

This distinct capability was demonstrated during a battalion-wide field training exercise July 15-22 at the Central Training Area to improve and perfect the battalion's ability to conduct close-combat engineer support, light-armored reconnaissance and limited offensive and defensive operations.

CAB supports different elements of 3rd Marine Division and III Marine Expeditionary Force throughout the Asia-Pacific region and is capable of executing a broad range of operations with its assets and personnel.

"We're conducting this exercise using the unique aspects of CAB," said Capt. John S. Kim, the Assault Amphibious Vehicle Company commander, CAB, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF. "We are also trying to continue to refine our ability to operate as a battalion."

CAB provides 3rd Marine Division with engineers, assault amphibious vehicle support, and light-armored reconnaissance, motor transportation, heavy-equipment and communications capabilities, as well as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense assets all within one unit.

"We want to show what kind of force we have," said Staff Sgt. Michael D. McGinnis, a section leader with AAV Co. "We're not just a landing force with AAVs. We also have our combat engineers who can get out there and set things up, and at the same time, we have LAR to show a different side with their light-armored missions vice mechanized missions."

During the exercise, AAV Co. and LAR Co. conducted a forward passage of lines operation, which involves a force moving forward through another force's combat positions with



An operator maneuvers his assault amphibious vehicle through a gate during a field training exercise July 15 at the Central Training Area. The Marines used the first day of training to transport equipment and personnel from Camp Schwab to the CTA. The Marines are with AAV Company, Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

the intention of moving to or from contact with the enemy.

"The biggest reason for the passage of lines was to coordinate our movement between the companies," said McGinnis. "We were able to conduct and organize our movement, so that we did not hinder each other."

The Marines of Combat Engineer Company also performed site improvement operations at the CTA, as well as squad live-fire maneuver exercises at Range 10, near Camp Schwab.

"Engineers train to infantry standards because we support infantry units," said Capt. Timothy G. Ernst, the Combat Engineer Co. commander. "We have to be able to do everything they can do and still do our (primary) job."

Training the Marines and exposing them to new concepts benefits their understanding and ability to work, according to Ernst.

"When we got here the big focus for us was mission readiness, so that we can actually

go out there and show our capabilities," said McGinnis. "Coming out of the exercise, I feel confident in our ability to support the division in any kind of operation we take on."



Lance Cpl. Jose M. Orantes ensures all bolts are secure after coming ashore during a field training exercise July 15 at the Central Training Area. The battalion-wide training exercise employed the unique capabilities of Combat Assault Battalion. Orantes is an AAV crew chief with AAV Company, CAB, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.

Lance Cpl. Zachary A. Chastain operates an assault amphibious vehicle during a training exercise July 15 near Camp Schwab. CAB provides 3rd Marine Division with engineers, assault amphibious vehicle support, and light-armored reconnaissance, motor transportation, heavy-equipment and communications capabilities, as well as, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense assets all within one unit. Chastain is an assault amphibious vehicle crewman with AAV Company, CAB, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.

Enjoy outdoors, remain cautious of plants

Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Okinawa's beautiful beaches and lush, forested hills offer picturesque views and recreational opportunities to sightseers and adventurers alike. However, there are precautions everyone should take to avoid a potentially unpleasant, early end to the day's adventure.

Some of Okinawa's plant life is poisonous and includes the sago palm, oleander, wax tree, sea mango and elephant's ear, according to Lt. Cmdr. Marion A. Gregg, the director of public health with U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa.

The sago palm is a tree, growing up to 16-feet high with leaves about 3-feet long and reddish seeds about an inch-and-a-half long.

The entire palm is poisonous if eaten by animals or people, according to Mitsugu Sugiyama, a natural resources specialist with the Environmental Affairs Branch, G-F facilities, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. It can cause liver damage, nausea, fever and an altered mental state if left untreated. The victim should drink plenty of water and go to the emergency room as soon as possible.

Another hazardous plant is the oleander; an evergreen-like shrubbery that grows up to 6-feet high with leaves that grow in a spiral pattern, according to Gregg. Although its pink and red-colored flowers can be fragrant, whether dried or fresh, the entire plant is dangerous to consume and touch.

"Everything about the plant, including the sap and leaves, is highly toxic," said Gregg. "Contact with the plant will cause skin ir-

ritation, and ingestion will cause gastrointestinal, cardiac and nervous system problems."

In case of contact, wash the affected area immediately, if ingested, drink plenty of water and seek medical help, according to Gregg.

Much like the oleander, the wax tree is poisonous, although it is not as toxic overall, according to Sugiyama.

"Wax trees are related to poison oak and poison ivy found in the U.S., and have similar effects on whoever touches it," said Sugiyama. "The leaves have red and orange coloration, the flowers are yellowish-green, and the fruit is small, round and yellow."

Contact with any of the plant's oils may cause a severe allergic reaction, according to Sugiyama. Treat the area at home by washing the oils off the infected area, and if problems persist, contact a medical professional.

An evergreen shrub known as a sea mango is another dangerous plant to keep on the lookout for, according to Gregg. It has red and white flowers and shiny, dark-green leaves. It also produces fruit, which is egg-shaped and green, becoming blackish in color over time.

"Like the oleander, the sea mango, including the sap, is toxic to humans and animals alike," said Gregg. "Contact with the sap can cause skin irritation and eye inflammation."

In case of skin contact, wash away the sap with soap and water as soon as possible; if ingested, drink water and as a precaution go to the nearest emergency department, according to Gregg.

Ingested or touched, the elephant's ear is also toxic throughout, according to Sugiyama. The stalky

perennial herb consists of leaves shaped like a heart and contains a crystalline chemical that will cause irritation.

Anyone who makes skin contact with an elephant's ear is encouraged to wash the affected area immediately with soap and water, according to Sugiyama.

Even though there are poisonous plants located on Okinawa, there is no need to fear the outdoors, according to Gregg.

"There are more than a few poisonous plants on Okinawa, but if you keep a few things in mind, none of them will cause a problem," said Gregg. "We encourage people not to ingest portions of any plant unless they are sure it is edible. If someone

happens to touch an unknown plant, wash the affected area as soon as possible."

Despite the presence of dangerous plant life on Okinawa, the island has much to offer, according to Gregg.

"Although there are dangers on this sub-tropical island, Okinawa is a very beautiful place," said Gregg. "Get out and take advantage of your time on island (but remain vigilant of your surroundings)."

For questions regarding plant life on Okinawa, contact MCIPAC Ground Environmental Affairs Division at 645-3327. For medical questions, contact your primary care provider or USNH Okinawa's Preventive Medicine Department at 643-7936.



ELEPHANT'S EAR



SEA MANGO



SAGO PALM



OLEANDER



WAX TREE

Cpl. Andy Cazeau, center, picks up litter with community members July 15 during the Aqua Social Fes 2013 "Vitamin Sea" where community members and service members cleaned the shoreline of Inanse in Urasoe. Cazeau is an electrician with Facilities Engineers Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.



Lance Cpl. Joshua W. Nickson, right, shares a laugh with Masumi Oshiro July 15 during the Aqua Social Fes 2013 "Vitamin Sea." "Community engagements such as volunteering at a nursing home or participating in a beach cleanup not only helps the local community, but also provides us the opportunity to visit different sites of the island and the chance to interact with the community," said Nickson, a finance technician with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.



Dancers perform the Shishi Mai, or lion dance, July 15 during the opening ceremony of the Aqua Social Fes 2013 "Vitamin Sea." The dance was adopted from the Chinese culture during the period of the Ryukyu Kingdom.

Citizens, Marines clean shoreline during festival

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Service members on leave or liberty can choose to engage in recreational activities, professional military education or just relax. But on one hot, sunny day, Marines used their time to volunteer at an event that gave back to the environment and community.

Approximately 450 community members and 40 Camp Kinser-based Marines came together July 15 for the Aqua Social Fes 2013, also known as "Vitamin Sea," to clean up the shore of Inanse Beach in Urasoe City.

"The citizens of Okinawa welcome the collaboration these events promote," said Tetsuji Matsumoto, the Urasoe City mayor. "It is very important that we continue to work together to keep building and fortifying our relationship."

The Marines provided a service for not only the environment but the community members as well.

"With our guests present, our junior high school students, who are learning English, seized this

opportunity to practice their foreign language with the service members, (while cleaning the beach)," said Matsumoto.

The event proved that much can be accomplished when everyone unites to keep Earth clean.

"Community engagements such as volunteering at a nursing home or participating in a beach cleanup not only help the local community, but also provides us the opportunity to visit different sites on the island and interact with the community," said Lance Cpl. Joshua W. Nickson, a finance technician with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Before the beach cleanup started, service members experienced a number of Japanese cultural traditions during a street performance.

"It was awesome being able to watch a traditional taiko performance and a shishi Mai, or lion dance, that the children performed for the event," said Nickson. "I will be going out and experiencing more of Okinawa."

This event will open up follow-on opportunities with the

community, according to Cpl. Andy Cazeau, an electrician with Facilities Engineer Division, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

"By working together as one, we can maintain a beautiful Mother Nature, not only for us but for generations to come," said Cazeau. "From Camp Kinser all the way to Camp Gonsalves, Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen need to work closer together, so we can work with our host nation as a more effective team."

The local children were also very appreciative that the service members were giving back to the environment.

"Okinawa is our home, and the service members worked with us to keep our home beautiful," said Higa Makino, an Urasoe City community member. "Thank you

for caring about our home."

Events like this are even more enjoyable when service members and community members work side-by-side while learning more about each other, according to Makino.

The cleanup paints a perfect portrait that through events like these the local communities and the service members can come together to build and keep strengthening their relationship.

"This was a successful event where we could all bond together no matter the age or gender," said Matsumoto. "I know that the city of Urasoe would enjoy having the Marines and sailors of Camp Kinser continue to show their support in these types of events."

In Theaters Now

JULY 26 - AUG 1

FOSTER

TODAY Red 2 (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Conjuring (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Turbo (3-D) (PG), noon; Red 2 (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; Red 2 (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Conjuring (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Turbo (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; Red 2 (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Turbo (3-D) (PG), 3 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13) 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Conjuring (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Conjuring (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Turbo (PG), 3 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (PG13), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Red 2 (PG13), 6 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Red 2 (PG13), noon; R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Conjuring (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Turbo (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (PG13), 4 p.m.; Red 2 (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Turbo (PG), 3 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Red 2 (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Conjuring (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Monsters University (G), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY Red 2 (PG13), 6 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Turbo (PG), 3 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY Red 2 (PG13), 3 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Red 2 (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Turbo (PG), 3 p.m.; Red 2 (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Red 2 (PG13), 4 p.m.; Pacific Rim (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.
SUNDAY The Conjuring (R), 4 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Red 2 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY The Conjuring (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY R.I.P.D. (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Conjuring (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Turbo (PG), 1 p.m.; Red 2 (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Red 2 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY R.I.P.D. (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Red 2 (PG13), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Conjuring (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Conjuring (R), 3 p.m.; Red 2 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Red 2 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 10 p.m.
SATURDAY R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 3 p.m.; R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Red 2 (PG13), 9:30 p.m.
SUNDAY R.I.P.D. (PG13), 2:30 p.m.; The Conjuring (R), 6 p.m.
MONDAY R.I.P.D. (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY The Conjuring (R), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Monsters University (3-D) (G), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY This is the End (R), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
(USO NIGHT) 632-8781
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890
(USO NIGHT) 636-2113
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616
CAMP HANSEN 623-4564
(USO NIGHT) 623-5011
CAMP KINSER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing and 3-D availability visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

BEACH BASH

• Join the SMP for its beach bash at White Beach Aug. 2. There will be a bus to pick up attendees at each installation. For more information, contact the SMP office via the number above.

DANCE FESTIVAL

• Join the SMP during the annual 10,000-Man Eisa Festival Aug. 3. The event features 10,000 eisa drummers and highlights various styles of eisa dance during the event. For more information, contact the SMP office via the number above.

Mention of any company in this notice does not imply endorsement by the Marine Corps.

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

Operation Phantom Fury refers to which major Marine engagement?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

What name was given to the collection of Marine actions in Central America and the Caribbean from 1900-1916?

ANSWER:

The Banana Wars, during which Maj. Gen. Smedley D. Butler received both his Medals of Honor for separate actions in Mexico and Haiti.



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Dozo.”

(pronounced: Doh-zoh)

It means “Please go ahead.”

CHAPLAINS'

ORNER

“All mountains and elephants are overcome, one small step or one small bite at a time.”



How do you eat an elephant?

Lt. Cmdr. Matthew S. Weems

MCAS FUTENMA CHAPLAIN

I don't exactly remember who asked it, but earlier in life I was asked this silly question, “How do you eat an elephant?” I was taken aback by the odd nature of the question. I thought to myself, “Do I really want to eat an elephant?”

Then the person asked again. I responded, “I don't know. How do you eat an elephant?”

He answered, “One bite at a time.” It was suddenly clear; he wasn't talking about the prospect of eating a real elephant. He was talking about how to take on a challenging situation or overcome an obstacle in life.

Recently, I had the opportunity to climb Mount Fuji. It was definitely a challenge, and I did the hike at night with some friends. Going up the mountain was all adventure, exhilaration and adrenaline. By sunrise, we were standing on the summit watching the sun break through the

clouds. It was breathtaking and beautiful. Our climbing sticks were stamped, and we felt a great sense of accomplishment.

Now let me reword my earlier question to fit this part of the story, “How do you climb a mountain?”

Answer, “One step at a time.” Of course we still had to hike down the mountain, that's when we had to tell ourselves, “We can make it, one step at a time.”

Life is much the same way. We all face challenges or difficulties. If we try and take on too much at once, we can easily become overwhelmed and discouraged.

The next time you are faced with a difficult circumstance or some challenge remember my silly question, “How do you eat an elephant?”

The lesson here is that all mountains and elephants are overcome, one small step or one small bite at a time.

Learn to break the circumstances or challenges of life down into smaller more manageable tasks and go for it, one bite or one step at a time.

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL AND LOOK UNDER “AROUND MCIPAC”